

REMARKS

Claims 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Mizuno et al., US Patent 6,077,757 in view of Morishima, U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0011857.

Independent claims 14 and 18 have been indicated as being allowable.

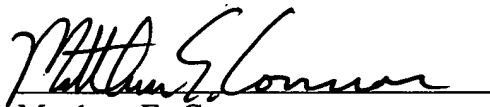
Independent claim 13 is now cancelled.

As to claims 15-17, 19 and 20, they are dependent on claim 13, respectively. Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended to be dependent upon now allowed independent claim 14. Claim 15 has been amended to be dependent upon now allowed independent claim 18. Therefore, claims 15-17, 19 and 20 are now allowable.

In view of the above amendments and for all the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejection made under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103 and 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please feel free to contact the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew E. Connors", is written over a horizontal line.

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